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TELECON

Secretary Schlesinger/Secretary Kissinger

March 23, 1974

3:40 P.M.

S: Hello Henry.

K: Jim, I just wanted to call you before I left and really only have one item of business but in general the situation is the way we left it and if anything comes up I will see to it that you get informed through Scowcroft.

S: Right. Incidentally, Henry, I heard that the MBFR meeting was not a thing of joy and enlightenment.

K: No.

S: I wanted to

K: It was a sorta disaster.

cut

S: I wanted to remind you that the discrepancy between US and Soviet Union forces is just based on 15% cut on both sides.

K: Oh, no that I did not object to. What I objected to was you know if you take out the Soviet tank army with equipment for 29,000 Americans without equipment it is a little hard to sell.

S: Well, I think you are going to have to sweep it up with tragment(?)

K: Exactly. As long as that is understood. And what we may have to do is

S: See we have those 7,000 weapons in Europe some of which we don't know what the hell we would do with.

K: Another problem, Jim, we ought to consider is that when you begin analyzing these equipment ceilings you don't really know whom they work for because if you take out their men they probably have to take some of their equipment with them and if you put a ceiling on theirs and a ceiling on ours you breed another disparity.

S: I think the best. It sounds right, I'd have to look at it more closely.

K: I don't expect to get into that in any detail in Moscow. The only thing that may come up in Moscow, but this is simply a guess, I have no knowledge of this, is they may resurrect again the idea of five to eight percent cut which would work out to about 12 for us and 29 for them.

S: That's all right.





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K: And in a way since we are not held to taking forces out.

S: Listen I think we can get that kind of stuff out of our headquarters and what not.

K: Exactly. It might even be a better way of doing it.

S: Yea. We have positioned ourselves in negotiations far better than the Russians have in that regard, we've got more fat.

K: Jim, one final thing.

S: Maybe that's a disadvantage being so combat heavy.

K: I have the impression of some foot dragging by the Navy on that mine clearance and Ebare(sp?) has now raised a number of questions.

S: Well Ebare(?)

K: Which I think the Navy put him up to.

S: I don't think the Navy put them up to that. Ebare(?) we misses a bet there, and I don't know whose fault it is. At the time that State made that announcement we should have informed him previously.

K: Oh sure.

S: And a lot of that stuff I think is just a resentment of the bureaucratic situation. Now he is raising two questions. One question is, how can we send our sons to die on foreign soil. And the other question is, who the hell is going to fund this. Now on the funding side I think we will have to find a way of getting it out of the AID budget.

K: Oh, Jim, the President is calling me on the other line.
I will call you right back.

S: Righto.